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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

GEOLOGISTS PLAN MINERAL SURVEY;
COAL AND OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE

NANKING GEOLOGISTS BEGIN FIELD WORK -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 27 Mar 50

Eighty geologists of the mine-survey department of the Nanking Geological Survey Office are planning a field trip for late March 1950 under the auspices of the Ministries of Fuel Industries, Heavy Industries, and Water Conservation to investigate the prospect for coal, iron, and other mineral reserves. The chief of the Geological Survey Office, Li-Ch'un-yu (Ueda: 4735, 4503, 4514) with two associates started out early in March.

The Nanking Military Control Commission held a reception for these geologists on 7 March and lauded them as front-line fighters.

Replying on behalf of the guests, Li Ch'un-yu recalled how they had begged for 100 yuan from the KMT government for a prospecting fund, but that only 30 yuan had been allowed and that was not forthcoming until its value had fallen many times. He asserted that the new government was different; it had given them a fund much larger than they had requested.

HONAN EXCEEDS PREWAR COAL PRODUCTION -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 26 Mar 50

K'ai-feng -- Coal production in Honan Province has recently risen to a level above that achieved in prewar times.

There are eight publicly operated mines and 122 private mines in Honan. Altogether these mines produced 34,170,396 /time period not given/ tons, exceeding prewar standards by 3.81 percent, and pre-liberation standards by 33.69 percent. As yet the mines are not in full operation. It is estimated that if operations were carried out for the entire year at the present rate, prewar production would be exceeded by 49.59 percent and pre-liberation by 92.86 percent. In 1934, there were 87 mines in addition to those in North Honan; all private mines, they produced only 329,175 tons.

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Honan's coal reserves amount to 4,535,172,000 tons, which is approximately 1.16 percent of total national deposits.

The publicly operated I-lo mines have had the most noteworthy success in raising production. In November 1949, with only one shaft in operation, the quota for the mine was 4,500 tons, but it produced 5,100 tons. The quota was raised to 6,000 tons in December, and the mine produced 6,605 tons. At the same time, costs were greatly lowered. For example, in June 1949, the cost per ton of coal was the equivalent of 175 catties of wheat; by December 1949 the figure had been reduced to 61 catties per ton.

SHANTUNG MINERS SET RECORD -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 21 Mar 50

Tsinan, 6 March (Hsin-hua) -- A labor gang in the third pit of the Hungshan coal mine set a new national record for shaft digging during February. They pushed a drift 183.9 meters in 25 days. The highest previous record for one month was 120 meters at the Chia-wang mine near Suchow. This gang developed new techniques for the work, consisting of drilling blast holes deeper, increasing the number of holes from 15 to 20 for each blast, and arranging the location and angle of the blast holes according to the dip of the stratum.

The gang has also developed a method of simultaneously removing the coal loosened by the blast and drilling new holes, whereas the general practice is to remove the debris entirely before beginning new drilling. The time between blasts has thus been considerably reduced.

YU-MEN OIL PRODUCTION EXCEEDS PRE-LIBERATION -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 20 Mar 50

Lan-chou, 2 March (Hsin-hua) -- Owing to the increased interest taken in the project by the workers, production at the Yu-men oil field in Kansu has been resumed and stepped up to 57 percent above pre-liberation figures. Only 2 days were required to do a job that pre-liberation operators estimated would require 8 days. Well-drilling time has been reduced by two thirds.

Workmen in all departments have also been busy recovering material and parts that had been buried or scattered in many places. More than 30 tons of these have been recovered.

CHIANG SHIPS ORE TO JAPAN -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 24 Mar 50

Taihoku, 23 March -- On 18 March 1950, the KMT loaded over 4,600 tons of gold and copper ore onto the Norwegian ship Miranda and dispatched it to Japan. The ship ran into a bad storm en route, however, and sank on 19 March 1950; however the gold and copper ore was transferred to another ship bound for Japan, so there were no losses.

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